

# **The March Broadsheet 2022**



**for the parishes of  
Humshaugh  
with Simonburn & Wark,  
Chollerton with Birtley,  
Gunnerton, Thockrington,  
St Oswald in Lee.**

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## **Chollerton Vicarage**

“What are you giving up for Lent?” It’s a question we might hear or ask of someone else each springtime before Easter, possibly with a smudge of ashes across our foreheads. But why do Christians “give up” anything for Lent? And why do we walk around in public with a smudge of ashes on our foreheads once a year?

Lent refers to a period of 40 days before Easter, beginning with Ash Wednesday and not including Sundays. We may associate it with ashes, memories of giving up chocolate or video games as children, and priests wearing purple vestments at Communion.

Periods of 40 days have great significance in the history of Christianity. Moses spent 40 days on Mount Sinai before he received the 10 Commandments, and Jesus spent 40 days in the desert praying and fasting before beginning His public ministry. The Church uses 40 days before Easter as a time of preparation. In the early Church, adults were instructed in the faith, and then baptized and confirmed at the Easter Vigil; the period leading up to Easter was a sort of “home stretch” before these people received the sacraments of initiation. For those who are Christians Lent serves a unique purpose. Early in the Church, spending a few days or even a symbolic 40 hours preparing for Easter was customary. By the 4th century, spending 40 days in prayer and fasting was a common practice. It became an opportunity for people to reorient their lives toward God and turn away from sin.

Lent is a time to call to mind our sins and acknowledge our need of a savior, so this season begins on Ash Wednesday when we receive ashes from a priest who says, “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return,” or “Repent and believe in the Gospel.” We receive ashes because they are symbolic of repentance — sorrow for sin — in the Bible. Receiving ashes while being reminded we are “dust” may sound a bit depressing, but it is really a call to conversion. Our time in this life is limited, and it is a reminder to focus on aligning our hearts with God, and to live in the way that He invites us to live

There are three traditional Lenten practices: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Through prayer, we focus on aligning ourselves with God, listening to His voice just as Moses did on Mount Sinai and Jesus did in the desert. By fasting, we deny ourselves something we want or enjoy as an act of repentance and to help us grow in self-discipline, so that we may more easily say “no” to sin in the future. And through almsgiving, or charity, we mirror in a small way Christ’s self-gift by making ourselves a gift to others.

The word “Lent” is derived from the Anglo-Saxon word “lencten,” which refers to the season of spring. It’s not a coincidence that most of Lent falls in the spring months because it is a time to seek new life in Christ by virtue of our baptism and through our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. It’s an opportunity to acknowledge our sins and repent, and to reorient our lives to embrace the renewal — and ultimately, eternal salvation — found in the saving work of Christ in His passion, death, and resurrection.

This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March and ends on Easter Day, 17<sup>th</sup> April. Do come and join in with services in any of the churches and chapels; you will be most welcome.

**Sarah Lunn**

### **Humshaugh Notes**

The Snowdrops in the Churchyard have been more abundant than ever this year. Even from the road you could enjoy the beautiful white carpet...



**The World Day of Prayer** is on Friday March the 4<sup>th</sup> at St Giles, Birtley at 2pm. The theme is “I Know the Plans I have for You” and has been prepared by women from England, Wales and Northern Ireland. There will be tea and cake after the service. Anne Race very kindly has offered to give a lift to anybody who would like to go.



**Humshaugh First School.** The children in class 3 have been asked by Kew Gardens to design and build a Tree House! The Tree Houses will be displayed throughout the school.



**The next Village Coffee Morning** will be on Saturday March the 12<sup>th</sup> from 10 – 12 in the Village Hall. All Welcome!

If anyone is interested in helping to develop plans to celebrate the Jubilee, please contact Diana Linnett on [humvillhall@gmail.com](mailto:humvillhall@gmail.com)



The Computer Café continues in the Supper Room on the first and third Tuesday of each month from 10 – 12. Bring your digital questions along and there will be coffee as well!



**The Pub Quiz** will be held on Tuesday, March the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8pm and will be in aid of the Humshaugh Village Hall.

**HAP** is showing the film “Knives Out” on Friday, March the 11<sup>th</sup>.



It is a 2019 American murder mystery, written by Rian Johnston.

A Master Detective (Daniel Craig), investigates the death of the patriarch of a wealthy, but dysfunctional family. It was selected by the American Film Institute as one of the top ten films of 2019. Doors will be open at 7 for 7.30 start – the bar and fab puddings for £2 will be there. Tickets from shop: £5 for adults, £2.50 for under 18's.

It was so sad to hear about the death of Loveday Spencer, who died in late January. She was always so interested in what was happening in Humshaugh. It was wonderful that she and Simon were able to come to “A Christmas Carol” performance in December. Many of us will miss her and we keep Simon very much in our thoughts and prayers.



Love, Liesbeth

## **WARK PARISH NEWS**

Spring is starting to come to life with snowdrops and lighter mornings and nights becoming noticeable. Soon it will be time to garden again and of course grass cutting! In fact, we cut ours a week ago!

We were all so sad to hear of the death of John (Jocker) Armstrong on 1<sup>st</sup> February. Probably, reasonable to say, the oldest and longest residing resident of Wark. He was well known in the area with his football connections. We send our thoughts and prayers to Linda and Alison and their families at this very sad time.

You may have heard the Charity Lunch is back this year, however, there will only be one sitting and it's sold out! This will also be the very last Lunch with it being held in memory of Ann Bell with the proceeds going to Macmillan nurses.

Wark Town Hall are holding a Curry & Quiz night on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March with food from Indus Valley. Information in the Post Office window and the Town Hall. Please book your table in advance with Liz Stringer on 230856.

Listed in The Broadsheet are the services for March but I'd like to remind you on Easter Sunday morning, 17<sup>th</sup> April, at 8am there will be a Holy Communion service in St. Michael's followed by a breakfast of bacon butties.

The annual meetings of St. Michael's will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> March in church at 7pm.

Until we chat again,

Love John



### **A Reflective Walk for Good Friday**

Please meet at 10.00am on Wark village green.

We follow the 'station walk'

which includes a fairly steep hill.

Any questions please contact Sally Napier 230223

Refreshments will be available in the Town Hall afterwards.

*We look forward to you joining us.*

## Birtley Notes

Huge congratulations to Abbey Tilley, who applied, was successful and has been offered a place at the Academy of Performing Arts in New York, for next year's Autumn term. Well done Abbey, we will be rooting for you...

A reminder that the Coffee Mornings still take place in the Village Hall, the first Thursday in every month (3rd March). Come along for a coffee and a chat. Everyone welcome.

The Woman's World Day of Prayer, which goes round the parishes, will be held this year at Birtley St Giles, on Friday 4th March at 2pm.

The ever popular Gardening Group will hold its AGM on Tuesday 8th March at 7pm, followed by the monthly meeting which is Tess Budd on 'Working for the Gardening Association'.

The churchyard clean-up will take place on Saturday 12th March at 10am, to clear branches and debris to allow the mower to do its work. Do come along, bringing gloves etc. any help will be most appreciated.

\*Note for your diary, the Church Fete and Dog Show will take place at the Village Hall on Sunday 22nd May. More later.

Mary

## Simonburn Notes

As I write this month's notes, we are in the middle of weather warnings of wind and snow. So far this winter, apart from some storms, we have been quite lucky and not had snow. Hopefully there won't be a lot of damage.

In late March, St. Mungo's will be the venue for an Easter trail, called Pilgrims' Love. Children from five schools will come for the day and enjoy activities in the village hall and then go to the church. I am sure the children will enjoy their day out and it will be memorable for everyone.

There will be a Platinum Jubilee meeting in the village hall on Tuesday 8th March at 7pm. Please come along with all your suggestions and ideas of how we can all get together on Sunday 2nd June, to celebrate The Queen's 70 years on the throne.

Take care

Love Sharon x

### Coffee Mornings

Humshaugh Village Hall  
Saturday March 12th  
Do come along and enjoy a coffee  
and cake between 10 and 12 noon.

All welcome.



### Bacon Butties

Tuesday 1st March  
1st Tuesday of every month  
9am to 11am

### Simonburn Village Hall

with tea or coffee

£2.50

Eat in or take away

Do come along  
for a butty & a chat.



### Gunnerton Lunch Club

Wednesday 30th March  
Soup, dessert and tea or coffee  
at 12 noon

All welcome



### TEA AT THREE



At Gunnerton Church  
Tuesday 15th March  
Please come along for the  
Home baking and good  
conversation



### GUNNERTON CHURCH

#### RAILWAY CIRCLE

Tues. 1st March



7.15 for 7.30 p.m.

Blyth and Tyne Railway

Ed Orwin

### Easter Bingo

Simonburn Village Hall  
Thursday 7th April

Donation of prizes would be  
much appreciated, thank you.

Donations of prizes please  
contact:

Christine Burrige on 07523166543



### Curry & Quiz night

Wark Town Hall  
Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March  
with food from  
Indus Valley.

Please book your table  
in advance with Liz  
Stringer on 230856.



**BIRTLEY AND DISTRICT  
GARDENING GROUP**

**AGM**

**Tuesday 8th March  
at 7pm, followed by the monthly  
meeting**

**With Tess Budd**

**on**

**'Working for the Gardening  
Association'.**



**Coffee Mornings**

Birtley Village Hall  
on the first Thursday of  
every month  
(next one on 3rd March)  
Come along for a coffee  
and a chat

**Everyone welcome.**



**You are warmly invited to a Quiet Morning**

**Thursday 24th March at The Rectory, Wark**

10am coffee, 10.30am start,  
finishing with a light lunch at 1pm

*Open Mind, Open Heart:*

*A morning with characters from the Easter Story*

An opportunity to step away from the distractions of everyday life, relax with friends and find space with God. Book early to avoid disappointment by contacting Sally Napier at [wannies30@btinternet.com](mailto:wannies30@btinternet.com) or Cathy Smith at [contactcathysmith@gmail.com](mailto:contactcathysmith@gmail.com).

**Simonburn Village Hall**

**The hall is available to hire at an hourly rate of £7.50  
To book please contact.**

**Sue Hickman on 01434 689682**

**Or**

**Roger Hadley on 01434 681077**

## Services in the Deanery for March



- **2<sup>nd</sup> March : Ash Wednesday**  
 10.00am Holy Communion at Wall  
 7.30pm Holy Communion at Bellingham  
 7.30pm Holy Communion at Humshaugh
- **3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
 10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton
- **6<sup>th</sup> March First Sunday of Lent : Readings: Deuteronomy 26: 1-11; Romans 10; 8-13; Luke 4: 1-13**  
 8.30am Holy Communion at Gunnerton  
 10.30am MURC Service at Wark  
 11.00am Parish Worship at Falstone  
 2.00pm Holy Communion at Otterburn  
 3.00pm Holy Communion at Bingfield  
 6.00pm Holy Communion at Elsdon  
 8.00pm Late@8 at Humshaugh
- **10<sup>th</sup> March**  
 10.00am Holy Communion at Bellingham
- **13<sup>th</sup> March 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent . Readings : Genesis 15: 1-12, 17-18; Philippians 3: 17-4;1; Luke 13: 31-end**  
 8.30am Holy Communion at Thockrington  
 8.30am Holy Communion at Horsley  
 10.00am Holy Communion at Humshaugh  
 3.00pm Holy Communion at Thorneyburn  
 4.00pm Holy Communion at Wall  
 6.00pm Holy Communion at Wark
- **20<sup>th</sup> March 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent . Readings: Isaiah 55: 1-9; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; Luke 13: 1-9**  
 8.30am Holy Communion at Falstone  
 10.00am Holy Communion at Chollerton  
 10.00am Parish Worship at Bellingham  
 10.00am Parish Worship at Humshaugh  
 10.30am MURC Service at Wark  
 11.00am Parish Worship at Otterburn  
 3.00pm Holy Communion at Birtley  
 6.00pm Holy Communion at Simonburn
- **27<sup>th</sup> March Mothering Sunday. Readings: Exodus 2: 1-10; 2 Corinthians 1: 3-7; Luke 2: 33-35**  
 8.30am Holy Communion at Chollerton  
 10.00am Deanery Zoom  
 10.00am Mothering Sunday service at Bellingham  
 3.00pm Holy Communion at Byrness  
 6.00pm Parish Worship at Thorneyburn  
 6.00pm Holy Communion at Humshaugh  
 6.00pm Parish Worship at Wark

